

★★★ELECTION 2020

FIVE DAYS UNTIL NOV. 3

Northwest to provide free rides to polls

SIDNEY LOWRY
Missourian Reporter | @TheMissourian

Nov. 3 is Election Day, and in preparation for voting, Northwest’s Office of Student Involvement is encouraging students to go to the polling stations.

In an email to The Missourian, Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs for Student Engagement and Development Kori Hoffman explained that the University is putting in more effort to help students engage in voting for the upcoming election.

There are three polling stations in Nodaway County: Polk A and D vote at Laura Street Baptist Church, Polk B and C vote at the First Chirstian Church and Polk E votes at the Church of Nazarene. To find where you vote, go to vote.org or call your local county clerk.

Safe Ride will offer its services Nov. 3 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. to give students transportation to polling stations. Students can contact Safe Ride at (660) 562-1245 to arrange their transportation.

“I think it is important to meet the needs of the students,” said Amanda Cullin, the University Police Department lieutenant who oversees the Safe Ride service. “We increase vans out for Safe Rides during times we think there is going to be more calls because we want to try and keep our wait times low and serve the students the best way we know how.”

More of the campus is involved with this election season, like the Student Senate, College Democrats, College Republicans and Pre-Law Society. They hosted a virtual town hall information meeting on the candidates and initiatives in Missouri, Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska and created a video with the information to help inform students about candidates.

Though the OSI is encouraging students to exercise their right to vote, Hoffman explains that it is important to be respectful despite the differences in political beliefs and that students need to be comfortable with agreeing to disagree.

“Regardless of the outcome of any election, we are all citizens in a community who live, work, and go to school together,” Hoffman said. “We cannot let our differences destroy the essence of our humanity and how we treat each other.”

Maryville Polling Locations and Hours



MAKAYLA POLAK | NW MISSOURIAN

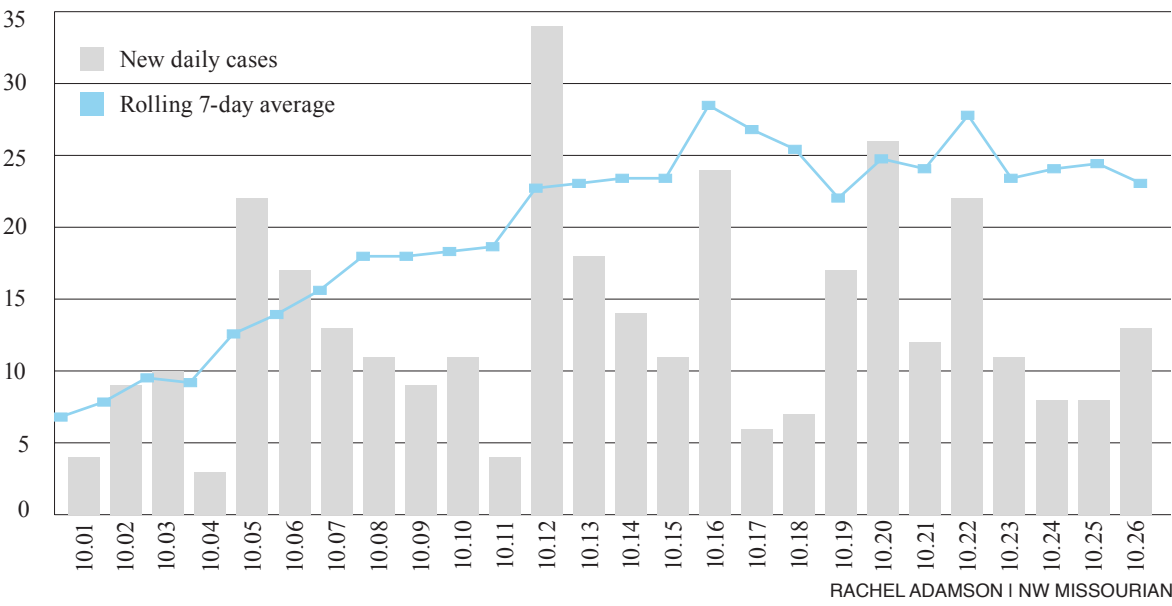
County COVID cases holding steady

ANDREW WEGLEY
Managing Editor | @andrewwegley

After the rolling average of new COVID-19 cases in Nodaway County increased steadily for the first three weeks of October, the flow of new virus cases seems to be holding firm as the county nears what could be a pivotal weekend.

With 13 new COVID-19 cases reported Oct. 26, the county’s seven-day rolling average dipped

NEW DAILY COVID-19 CASES IN NODAWAY COUNTY IN OCTOBER



RACHEL ADAMSON | NW MISSOURIAN

slightly to 14.29, down from a month-long high of 16.57 reported in mid-October. The county’s total case count surpassed 1,000 last week, now sitting at 1,068 cases with 73 probable cases as of Oct. 26 — the latest available data at the time of publication.

The active case count in the

county, and among Northwest staff and students, has remained in flux for much of the month. Heading into the last weekend of the month, with college Halloween parties and community trick-or-treat events looming, there are 157 active COVID-19 cases in the county, 26.75% of which involve Northwest staff

or students.

The current case load throughout Nodaway County and on Northwest’s campus is down from where they were a week ago, when they reached a month-long high. On Oct. 22, the active case count in the county sat at 176, while the University count was 58. The count among

Northwest staff and students has dropped to 42.

Citing the increased community spread of COVID-19 along with a sort-of virus fatigue that has caused some to relax in following mitigation efforts, Northwest Wellness Services Executive Medical Director Gerald Wilmes said he was worried as the holiday weekend looms.

“Yes, I have a great deal of concern about the weekend,” Wilmes said in a phone call Oct. 28. “I get it, people are tired, but we’ve had — even before the weekend — there’s been kind of, locally, if not a surge, a blip (in new COVID-19 cases). So, yes, I have a lot concerns.”

Perhaps the most notable Halloween programming scheduled in the county is the Downtown Trick-or-Treat event set to take place Oct. 29 after Maryville’s City Council first discouraged the event from happening at its Sept. 28 meeting. Earlier this week, the Council grudgingly moved to go ahead and block off several city streets for the event in a 4-1 vote, with Councilman and Mayor Pro Tem Tye Parsons voting no.

SEE COVID | A4



GABI BROOKS | FILE PHOTO

The 448-acres of R.T. Wright Farm, where the Agricultural Learning Center is being built, consists of beef, dairy and swine operations. The Agriculture Learning Center pushed past its fundraising goal with a donation from Northwest Foundation Board of Directors member John Cline.

Funds for Ag Learning Center in place after \$500,000 donation

SAMANTHA COLLISON
News Reporter | @sammiellcollison

The still-unnamed Agricultural Learning Center was pushed past its fundraising goal with a \$500,000 personal donation from alumnus and Northwest Foundation Board of Directors member John Cline.

At the Oct. 22 Board of Regents meeting, Cline gave an update on the Forever Green Campaign, which has surpassed its initial \$45 million

goal by \$40 million. Following his update, his tone shifted towards the personal, and he thanked University President John Jasinski, among others, before announcing his gift.

Jasinski’s tearful thank you and a standing ovation closed out the meeting. The donation was the last amount needed to reach Northwest Foundation’s fundraising goal for the \$11.4 million project.

“John Cline and the Cline fam-

ily and what they’re doing for Northwest Missouri State, for the Ag Learning Center, for growing Northwest and uplifting the Northwest community, ... it’s unbelievable,” Jasinski said. “It’s an energy boost for all of us as you think about Northwest going through a pandemic ... continuing to learn and grow; that’s what we do.”

SEE AG LC | A4

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Northwest President John Jasinski gives a COVID-19 update to the Board of Regents at its Oct. 22 meeting in the J.W. Jones Student Union Ballroom.

RACHEL ADAMSON | NW MISSOURIAN

Grant of \$1.6 million funds program

SAMANTHA COLLISON
News Reporter | @sammiecollison

Through a \$1.64 million Missouri Department of Social Services grant, Northwest will be able to renovate a classroom and expand its early childhood education program to accommodate children from 6 weeks old to 3 years old. The Northwest Board of Regents unanimously approved the acceptance of the grant — which was funded by the CARES Act — at its Oct. 22 meeting. The early childhood program offered through Horace Mann Laboratory School has expanded from

six early childhood majors to 160 in three years, and the grant-funded program will create 9,000 more hours of learning for early childhood education majors per year, Dean of the Northwest School of Education Tim Wall said. Wall said the University anticipates adding a masters program in early childhood education in the next year. While not enabling the University to add new square footage to the school, it will enable the program to take on up to 20 new students under the age of 3. Though the grant is one-time funding, if the program

reaches capacity, Vice President of Finance Stacy Carrick said the program will be revenue-neutral. “The grant really is important for the community and for those that we serve, but for students themselves, we knew that one of our gap areas was having an early childhood care center available for our students,” University President John Jasinski said. “That program is growing, and now it’s going to be right here on campus in our Leet Center. It’s another example of hands-on learning at Northwest.” Board of Regents Chair John Moore said as state funding for

higher education has continued to decrease, the Board of Regents has more pressure to make worthwhile investments, and this program is a sound investment because of state bipartisan support for the benefits of quality early childhood education. Wall said he worked with Carrick, Leet Center Director Cindy Rouser and Grants Coordinator Tye Parsons to complete the grant application in a condensed time frame. “One of the things I’m most proud of for the Northwest community is that students will be able to have newly-created positions

to work in the center,” Wall said. “That’s a direct benefit to students who get practical experience doing something they love while also learning. It’s the essence of profession-based learning.” According to the brief provided to the Board of Regents, the grant will allow for upgraded HVAC, natural light, egress and access for Brown Hall, a new play area and technological enhancements to enable parents to remotely check in on their children while they work and teacher candidates to observe, watch, learn and practice. The targeted opening date is July 1, 2021.

Students take advantage of free flu vaccine clinic

ASHLEY LOSSON
News Reporter | @Ashley_Losson

Flu season is approaching, and with the combined risk of COVID-19, Northwest has made it easier for students to gain access to a flu vaccine. The flu clinic, hosted by the University Wellness Center, is where students and faculty can get their

flu vaccines for free. Students can check in on the third floor of the J.W. Jones Student Union Ballroom. After they have filled out some paperwork, they then stand in line and wait for their turn. The flu vaccines are free for any student, but Judy Frueh, assistant director of Wellness Services, said if students are in quarantine or isolation, they are asked to wait until

they’re symptom-free for at least 48 hours before coming to the clinic. Once they’re seated for the vaccine, they will be asked for their medical history, 919 number and their name. Frueh said she believes it is important for people to get a flu vaccine this year. “It’s always a good idea to do it. It just helps protect against four different strains that they (CDC) think might be out there this year,” Frueh said. Frueh said it’s also important to get the vaccine this year because of COVID-19, to prevent students from getting the flu and COVID-19. The flu clinic has always been available, but due to social distancing measures, Frueh said it has been moved from the Wellness Center to the Union. Along with social distancing measures, everyone wears a mask and hand sanitizer is



ADDALYNN BRADBURY | NW MISSOURIAN

The University Wellness Services is giving out free flu vaccines at all students in the J.W. Jones Student Union. Close to 200 students and faculty have gotten a flu shot through the Wellness Center so far this season.

available for students afterwards. More dates and times have also been added to this year’s flu clinic so that students have ample opportunity.

Students are able to go on Oct. 28, Nov. 4, Nov. 11 and Nov. 18. More details can be found on the Northwest Calendar. Close to 200 students and faculty have attended the flu clinic this year. While this is a lower number than past years, Frueh said she believes this year will be the most attended because there are more clinics happening. Students said they enjoy the accessibility of being able to get their vaccine on campus between classes. “I’m a diabetic, so I normally get it (flu vaccine) at my annual check-up, but because I’m here I can’t have that, so this is the next easiest option for me,” sophomore Alyssa Woodward said. Jana Hinds, a freshman, also said that this was the easiest option for her because it’s free and on campus. Woodward and Hinds both said they usually get the flu vaccine, so this isn’t any different; however, senior Lara Watson said she doesn’t normally get the flu vaccine, but had to this year because she is in the military now. The last flu clinic is on Nov. 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Meeting Room B on the third floor of the Student Union. If students can’t make it to one of the flu clinics they can call the Wellness Center and make an appointment. “This is the best time of the year to get it (flu vaccine) ... because it will protect you for six months,” Frueh said.

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Kawasaki plant seeks students in hire program

ABIGAIL STARR
News Reporter | @abbeystarr5

Kawasaki and Northwest renewed their partnership to offer part-time positions to students in need of hands-on experience and part-time work this fall.

Students who participate will have the opportunity to interact with Kawasaki leadership and participate in unique engagement events that aim to build their resume and prepare them for post-graduation life.

Jill Brown, the University’s director of partnerships and placement, said Kawasaki is a wonderful partner with a lot to offer to students. Brown said anyone from education majors to theater majors can benefit from this program; employers inherently know Kawasaki is hard work and will value that in an applicant.

“All experience is good experience in my opinion,” Brown said. “I’ll take experience and grit over age any day.”

Human Resources Manager Tim Melvin described the program as successful, recalling a previous year where Kawasaki hosted 24 members of the POWERING Bearcats Program.

Melvin notices the energy and perspective Northwest students offer to the position. He said they often take advantage of the consistency and convenience of the job due to scheduling that allows for studies, friends and rest. New hires, he said, bring new methods of operation to the table to create more efficient means of production.

“I wish there would have been something around like this when

“It’s challenging and high-paced work, but it’s honest pay for the work. I’ll take experience and grit over age any day.”
-TIM MELVIN

I was in school,” Melvin said. “I probably would’ve worked harder at both my job and school because my schedule would’ve been more consistent and allowed me those social times.”

Students must work a minimum of 20 hours a week at the Maryville plant. The starting wage is \$17.20 an hour. With 20 hours a week, that’s \$344 a week gross pay and a total of \$17,200 in gross pay a year. This totals to \$68,800 over the course of four years.

From the day of employment, students are building their 401(k). Paid vacation is also available to part-time employees. Anyone working second shift from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. or third shift from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. is eligible for an additional \$1.25 per hour. Through this program, direct deposits can also be made to Northwest student accounts.



HAILEY MACH | NW MISSOURIAN
Kawasaki employees leave work after their shift ends Oct. 22 at the Kawasaki Motors Manufacturing Corp., USA. The Maryville plant has been around for more than 25 years.

Kawasaki is looking for applicants that have an eye for quality and are self-motivated. Those who are the most efficient at completing the circuit of tasks will be the most successful Melvin said. There are goals set for production each day that need to be met.

“It’s challenging and high-paced work, but it’s honest pay for the work,” Melvin said.

The greatest need is in die casting and machining, the two production areas of the plant. Die casting is the process of machines breaking down into aluminum pieces that are then rust filed and moved to the machining process. Six different pieces of aluminum are then quality checked and used for engine assembly.

Students can apply at <http://kawasakimaryville.com/>. Once hired, students should contact Jill Brown at jillb@nwmissouri.edu to be enrolled in the program and receive additional information.

There are also opportunities for careers at the plant beyond graduation. Employees starting in assem-

bly or production have earned management positions. Melvin used his business management degree from Northwest to start as a production manager at the Maryville plant 31 years ago.

“I’m partial to Northwest,” Melvin said. “I’m proud of the education provided to me at Northwest.”

The manufacturer established the Kawasaki Powering Dreams Scholarship in 2016 for students who succeed just below the highest level of academic achievement and have financial need, and it established the Kawasaki Kids: Powering Your Potential Scholarship in 2019 to assist dependents of Kawasaki employees.

Their website spoke highly of their employees, saying “Our employees are what make Kawasaki, Maryville Plant, successful. The “can do” attitude and the Midwest work ethic that our employees contribute each and every day allow us to accomplish our goals.”

According to a press release from the University on Oct. 15, Kawasaki’s support of the University

through the Northwest Foundation, as well as support of Bearcat athletics programs, has totaled more than \$250,000 since 2015. The company also has supported such efforts as a STEM workshop for area educators and scholarships for students studying abroad.

Kawasaki has annually provided \$5,000 to support Northwest’s Visiting Writers Series for the last 20 years. The series was created by the Department of Language, Literature and Writing to host nationally recognized fiction writers for presentations and readings throughout the academic year.

“We are grateful to Kawasaki for all it does to advance our community,” Northwest President John Jasinski said in the release. “Its continuing growth and economic impacts reflect those of Northwest Missouri State University, and we are proud to partner with Kawasaki on this program and are thankful for its long-term support of Northwest.”

County struggles to keep deputy on task force

MADLINE MAPES
News Reporter | @MadelineDMapes

The Nodaway County Sheriff’s Department partners with the Platte County Sheriff’s Department through the Western Missouri Cyber Crimes Task Force, which provides cyber crime tips to Nodaway County Sheriff’s Department, but Nodaway County does not have a full-time officer on the task force.

Platte County Sheriff Mark Owen explained that out of 114 counties, 27 of them are partnered with Platte County in the WMCCTF, but only a handful of them actually have full-time officers on the task force.

According to the Platte County Sheriff Department’s website, the WMCCTF is a task force that partners with other counties in Missouri, tracking internet sexual predators that target and intend to

harm children. This task force covers more than 15,000 square miles of the state.

“Most of the counties don’t have somebody full time on it,” Owen said. “There is only probably ... five.”

Owen explained that it is not unusual for so few departments to have full-time officers on the task force for a number of reasons.

Owen said some sheriff departments either don’t have the funding to send an officer to Platte County every day, they don’t have the staff to send someone to Platte County. Another reason is that departments in other counties are simply too far away for an officer to drive to Platte County to work on the task force every day.

Nodaway County Sheriff Randy Strong said that he currently has 14

deputies in his department, which means that he can’t send someone to Platte County every day.

Strong explained the drive time involved with being a full-time officer on the WMCCTF makes it difficult to assign an officer from a department that is already stretched thin. The lack of full-time officer from Nodaway County on the force has become a political talking point for supporters of Darren White, who is running against Strong for sheriff.

“When I got into office I looked to see if anyone wanted to volunteer to go down there, but I really didn’t have anybody that wanted to do that right now because ... they deal with a lot of child pornography, and that is just an area that some people just don’t want to get into,” Strong said.

Strong noted that if he is reelect-

ed in the upcoming election, he will not put an officer full time on the WMCCTF unless he is granted by the Nodaway County Commission one or two more deputy positions.

He explained that there has been an increase in calls to the Nodaway County Sheriff’s Department and that the Nodaway County Courthouse has asked for increased security.

“One of the issues that we ran into when we first came into office was the judges wanted to increase courthouse security,” Strong said. “Sometimes that is three times a week — four times a week — I’ve got three deputies tied up during the day at court.”

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CRIME LOG

for the week of Oct. 29

Northwest Missouri State University Police Department
Oct. 26
There is an open investigation for stealing at the J.W. Jones Student Union.

Oct. 25
There was a closed investigation for a liquor law violation.

Oct. 24
There was a closed investigation for a liquor law violation at Perrin Hall.

Maryville Department of Public Safety
Oct. 26
A summons was issued to Lincoln T. Pope, 19, Pickering, Missouri.
A traffic accident occurred on the 400 block of North Main Street between **Ezekiel J. Morrow**, 16, and **Louis N. Richter** of Columbia, Missouri. **Morrow** was charged with careless and imprudent driving, and no valid driver's license.

Oct. 25
There is an ongoing investigation for Larceny at the 700 block of East Third Street.
There is an ongoing investigation for leaving the scene at the 600 block of North Mulberry Street
A summons was issued to **Dylan T. Marrs**, 19, of Forrest City, Missouri, and charged with DWI and failure to obey traffic signal.

Oct. 26
A traffic accident occurred on the corner of East Third Street and North Avenue between **Alec R. Vanderpool**, 18, of Indianola, Iowa, and **Madeline R. Knight**, 20, of Maryville. **Vanderpool** was charged with careless and imprudent driving and without valid driver's license.

COVID

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Parsons, who called the event a “super spreader ... waiting to happen” in an Oct. 5 Facebook post, explained on Twitter after this week’s meeting that his “no” vote had to do with potential insurance liabilities for the city. The Council has continued to urge residents not to attend the event, where masks will be required.
“City’s insurance kicks in when we vote to close the streets,” Parsons said in a tweet. “If there is a COVID outbreak tied to the event, is the city liable? Skip this event this year ... and if you go, properly wear a mask the entire time.”
In a follow-up tweet, Parsons took a more firm stance, calling the event a “no win situation” for the city.
“No temp checks, no contract tracing, no insurance,” Parsons tweeted in the hours after the Council meeting. “Good discussion to-night, but this event should not go forward.”
Event organizer Kathy Rice, who took over the event after the Maryville Pride Lions backed out of hosting this year, told the Council she talked with Nodaway County Health Department Administrator Tom Patterson before going ahead with the event. Rice will encourage participants to wear gloves and bring hand sanitizer. Masks will be required at the event, though the City Council did not address how the mask ordinance would be enforced at the Downtown Trick-or-Treat.

Patterson and Maryville City Manager Greg McDaniel did not respond to interview requests in time for publication. Meanwhile, Wilmes, the University’s top medical officer, didn’t identify any specific Halloween events as potential COVID-19 spreaders, instead assigning concern to any potential gathering over the weekend. He urged residents to follow the mitigation efforts he and other health professionals have been endorsing for months.
“It’s the same risk factors,” Wilmes said. “COVID doesn’t pick the event; it’s the same risk factors. So with (COVID-19) being so prevalent in the community, that any gatherings, and particularly unmitigated gatherings, be they college-related events or city events ... the risk factors are the same.”
Kendrick Calfee contributed to this report.



HAILEY MACH | NW MISSOURIAN

Assistant professor Joseph Tomasso crafts an oboe reed in the Olive DeLuce Fine Arts Building Oct. 22. The assistant professor can play the oboe, bassoon, clarinet and saxophone.

Northwest bands benefit from \$8,000 in equipment aimed at reed making

WESLEY MILLER
News Reporter | @Wesleymiller360

Joseph Tomasso, assistant professor, is working to improve the reed section of Northwest bands, especially the Northwest Wind Symphony Orchestra, by purchasing \$8,000 worth of high-end machinery to help students better learn how to fabricate their own reeds.

Tomasso is now in his fourth year at Northwest as a full-time professor. In just four years, Tomasso said he feels like the reed section is heading to where it should be. With reed making, Tomasso said he believes it helps improve the students’ academic abilities and provides the school with a recruitment opportunity.

Tomasso has begun teaching reed-making courses, which is new to the University. In order to help with the reed-making process, the University’s music program received funding this summer and was able to acquire the equipment necessary. “It has been extremely helpful and puts us on an even playing field with all of the elite conservatories in the country,” Tomasso said. “It is a great time to be a Bearcat.”

The goal for Tomasso was to expand the Northwest music program, and since he is part of the reed section, that is where he began. He has advanced training in both single and double reed, and Tomasso said he felt like this was an opportunity to attract oboe and bassoon players.

“This helps diversify and strengthen the overall music school, which is quite strong,” Tomasso said.

When Tomasso first arrived at Northwest, there was one oboe player and one bassoon player. Neither knew how to make their own reeds. Now, there are five bassoon players and four oboe players who can all make their own reeds. Sometimes, though, they still need assistance.

Junior Jared Carlton said that the process takes work to perfect.

“The process is fairly difficult to learn, but eventually becomes second nature through enough practice,” Jared Carlton, junior, said. “Dr. Tomasso does an excellent job of walking us through the process and gives us plenty of experience with him

“This helps diversify and strengthen the overall music school, which is quite strong.”
- JOSEPH TOMASSO

making reeds before we are ‘on our own.’”

Freshman Gabriel Roller has just started learning reed making and said that it has been fun so far.

“Learning how to make reeds as a beginner has been challenging but satisfying at the same time,” Roller said.

Roller credited Tomasso for teaching students how he learned the process himself.

“Making reeds is about as challenging as I expected it to be. It’s a lengthy process that requires precise measurements and patience,” Roller said. “It will be some time before I make a reed that I am completely happy with, but all the opportunities we are given to practice allows the process to always be moving forward.”

There are now five new machines used for reed making, which are all for the bassoon players.

First is the bassoon pre-gouging machine, which scoops out a large portion of the reed plant. Next is the bassoon gouging machine, which refines the inside of the reed. There is the bassoon shaper that makes the exact contour of the reed. Then the bassoon profiling machine, which scrapes the bark off the reed and thins the blade portion of the reed. Finally is the bassoon tip profiling machine that defines the top portion of the blade.

The rest of the process is done by hand with the use of specialty knives, files and sandpaper. Tomasso said it is very “person specific” and that the humidity, barometric pressure and temperature play a big part in how well reeds function.

It takes roughly two to three weeks to make a bassoon reed properly, so students learn how to plan ahead. Tomasso said being able to craft their own reeds also saves hundreds of dollars throughout the year and thousands during their education.

Tomasso said he hopes the music department can find equipment to help oboe players as well. Currently, Tomasso loans his pre-gouging and gouging machine to the oboe players.

“Oboe reeds only take a few days to make, and they have a few less pieces of equipment because more of the process is done by hand with specialty knives,” Tomasso said.

Tomasso said that right now students can enroll in applied lessons and take a two-hour credit load in order to get one-on-one time with him to learn the process.

He said that the student does not need to be a music major or have the ability to play music.

“Making reeds can actually be a very profitable career on its own,” Tomasso said.

Tomasso said that there are thousands of reed players in the Midwest, meaning there is more than enough market if someone decided to make reed-making a business. Reeds last about 10-15 hours of playing time, and handmade reeds can cost \$20 to \$30 online.

Tomasso said he believes reed making is a very viable career path, especially for students wishing to own an independent business.

“Before working at Northwest and starting my doctorate, I ran a reed-making business, so I am confident I can teach my students how to do the same,” Tomasso said.

Depending on the quality of the reed, it can take from one hour to one month to make one reed. Tomasso said that it can take up to three or four years before someone can make a reed without guidance.

Even though reed making has been his biggest project so far, to further improve the reed section of the band, Tomasso said he wants newer instruments and hopes to be able to acquire them soon.

AG LC

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Director of Capital Programs Scott Kuhlemeyer said while the project has stayed on budget and is on track to be completed by spring 2021, COVID-19 threatened to delay construction.

“We have seen significant price increases for certain construction materials, longer lead times to acquire materials due to effects on production and less certainty in deliveries,” Kuhlemeyer said. “Whenever a positive case or close contact situation arises, it does impact projects because that takes key people out of the process for a time.”

He said his team has completely changed the way it interacts through virtual means since the beginning of the year when construction began.

“We continually monitor proj-

ect schedules in order to mitigate any negative impacts,” Kuhlemeyer said. “I feel the capital programs team has done a very good job of identifying, tracking and mitigating potential risks to reduce negative impacts.”

The Northwest Foundation provided the most funding to the project at \$6.5 million. Kuhlemeyer said the rest of the funding came in the form of \$2.5 million from the State of Missouri, \$343,000 from an equipment grant award and the remaining \$2 million from the Northwest Board of Regents.

Kuhlemeyer said the 30,000-square-foot Agricultural Learning Center will allow for an expansion of existing program offerings for crops, soils and livestock, in addition to adding programming for processing of agricultural products in classrooms, laboratories and an exposition space.



GABI BROOKS | FILE PHOTO

Northwest community members celebrate the grand opening of the new farmhouse Sept. 4, 2019, on Northwest’s R.T. Wright Farm.



EMILY NOYES | NW MISSOURIAN

OUR **ENDORSEMENT:**

STRONG FOR SHERIFF

Editorial Board: Voters got it right in 2016 when former cop beat incumbent sheriff

The editorial board of this newspaper does not often make endorsements. We do not endorse national, state or even local candidates with any regularity. However, given the importance of the Nodaway County sheriff’s race and this paper’s extensive coverage of that race, with features of both candidates and fact-checking of the claims made by both, we felt it important to weigh in.

The editorial board of the Northwest Missourian has decided to endorse Randy Strong (R) for sheriff.

We believe Strong is the best of the two candidates for the position of chief law enforcement officer of the county for many reasons. Strong has decades of experience in law enforcement; some of that experience even led to him being recognized in the White House.

Strong has interacted with students and spoken at Northwest on multiple occasions, including the annual Karen Hawkins Week hosted by Sigma Sigma Sigma, a week focused on keeping the memory of Hawkins, a Northwest student who was sexually assaulted and murdered in 1995. Strong was one of the officers who investigated that case.

Strong is by no means a perfect candidate. The editorial board of this newspaper would like to see more county residents on staff at the sheriff’s office. Strong has acknowledged the existence of police bias but stated that he has seen no evidence of racial profiling from his office. This is unlikely given that Missouri’s attorney general found Black drivers are 91% more likely to be stopped in the Show-Me State.

Strong does, however, have a clear platform and plans in place to better the sheriff’s department, but perhaps most importantly,

he isn’t Darren White.

It’s important to note that by his own admission, White cares not for party affiliation. Meaning those who plan on voting blue on Nodaway County ballots will not find many, if any, of the Democratic Party’s platform or ideals in White.

White has refused to stop disseminating false information about the budget and claims that deputies of Nodaway County stopped working around the clock after his departure, even though he has been fact-checked by multiple sources. Instead, he’s built his campaign on those fabrications.

Perhaps the most troubling issue with White is his fixation on Daisy Coleman’s case and attempting to vilify Melinda Coleman. Daisy Coleman was allegedly raped in 2011 while White was sheriff, and the case and the way in which it was handled put a national media spotlight on Nodaway County and White. The case ended with no jail time and much confusion, and it was the partial subject of the unflattering Netflix documentary “Audrie and Daisy.”

White suggested to a reporter at The Missourian that he wasn’t convinced Daisy Coleman’s death by suicide actually happened. He was promptly fact-checked; Daisy Coleman had indeed committed suicide in August.

When given the chance to soften or outright recant his statements in a later interview with The Maryville Forum, he instead doubled down, suggesting that Daisy Coleman’s death by suicide might have been an attempt to derail his campaign for sheriff.

These statements are disgusting and appalling. The sheer horror of these comments could not be understated. It lacks basic human decency and empathy expected of all of us, but especially those charged with protecting a community.

White has shown himself as a man obsessed with his past and rewriting history. His candidacy is not in the best interest of Nodaway County’s future.

Randy Strong has a clear vision and direction, stating that he wants to give county residents the best possible sheriff’s department in his departure, whenever that might be. This editorial board believes that reelecting him gives the county a greater chance of achieving that.

SELECTING A CANDIDATE FOR ENDORSEMENT

To make this endorsement, the editorial board had a series of discussions about the candidates. In addition, extensive research was done on each candidates’ stances and platforms and a set of questions created by the editorial board were posed to each candidate via interview. Each candidate’s answers to those questions can be online at NWMISSOURINEWS.COM.

YOUR VIEW:

Who are you voting for for Sheriff of Nodaway County? Why?

THE INTERVIEWS

Q: What’s the biggest challenge facing Nodaway County, and how can the Nodaway County Sheriff’s Office help overcome that challenge under your leadership?

FOLLOW-UP: How do you feel you are equipped to handle what you believe will be a massive dropoff in tax revenues?

Q: What’s the most important duty of the Nodaway County sheriff?

Q: If the Daisy Coleman case happened today, and your office fielded the call, how would you handle it?

Q: What are your public safety priorities for Nodaway County, and what specific changes, if any, would you enact if elected?

Q: How would your administration address issues of policing biases, and what steps would you take to curb discrimination?

Q: Why do you want to be Nodaway County sheriff?

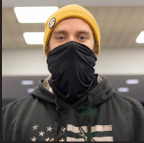
READ THE CANDIDATE’S ANSWERS ONLINE:
NWMISSOURINEWS.COM

SHAY MIDKIFF
Junior
Communication



“I’m going to vote for Sheriff Strong. The reason is because they affiliate with my party, and I feel like that would be the best reason to do so.”

MARK KAUFFMAN
Post-Bacc
Private Accounting



“I don’t really care who’s sheriff, to be honest with you. I don’t really know. I don’t have a strong opinion on it.”

DALTON APEL
Freshman
Biochemistry



“I am voting for Randy Strong because I had read some information about Darren White and the mistreatment of Daisy Coleman, and I had heard that she had committed suicide from not getting the justice that she deserved from her rape.”

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ON A MISSION TO CIVILIZE



Northwest senior Jasper Logan, who’s political resume is two full pages long, stands outside the Nodaway County Republican Headquarters on Main Street in Maryville. Logan recently served as the campaign manager for Tina Goodrick, who lost her primary bid for Missouri’s District 9 Statehouse seat Aug. 4.

★ ★ ★ ELECTION 2020

President of campus group calls for polite discourse

ANDREW WEGLEY
Managing Editor | @andrewwegley

As Jasper Logan described his views on the state of national politics from the basement of the Valk Center, the building that serves as the home to Northwest’s political science department, the senior political science major was interrupted. Logan, one of the most visible conservative students on campus, was in the middle of his fourth semester as the president of Northwest College Republicans and in the middle of lamenting the loss of room for intellectual diversity within both major political parties when a passerby interjected. “So I don’t think it’s a good thing that some people are so scared of their own reelection that they change their view overnight, but I don’t know what the solution to that is,” Logan was saying, before Spencer Owens, the former president of the Northwest Missouri College Democrats, yelled across the entrance hall in the basement of Valk as he waited for the elevator to carry him one floor up. “Jasper,” Owens said, turning away from the elevator and cuffing his hands around his mouth to project his voice through the nearly empty commonspace. “You talking about how you’re voting for Biden?” “Nope,” Logan said plainly, as the two broke into laughter. “Have a good one, Jasper,” Owens said, stepping onto the elevator. “You too,” Logan said, before turning his attention back toward the issues gripping the country and campus with less than two weeks until voters will head to the polls and choose between President Donald Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden in one of the most contentious presidential elections in modern history. Logan, of course, was not talking about how he plans to vote for Biden. The card-carrying type of Republican who has worked for the Missouri Republican Party and was the campaign manager for Missouri House of Representatives candidate Tina Goodrick, Logan, 21, is voting for Trump. And Missouri Gov. Mike Parson. And

he’s voting “yes” on Missouri’s Amendment 3. In fact, Northwest Missouri Conservatives, the political action committee Logan co-founded with Goodrick after she lost her primary bid for Missouri’s District 9 Statehouse seat, is the largest financial giver to the “Yes on 3” cause in the state, he said. While he considers himself somewhere between conservative and libertarian on the political scale, Logan tends to vote a straight-Republican ticket. He said he believes the country’s founders laid out the framework for a mostly libertarian society, but Libertarians don’t win elections, he admitted. A native of Raytown, Missouri, and a registered voter in Jackson County, Logan could only recall voting for a Democrat once. “I voted for Frank White for county commissioner ’cause it was just him and a Green Party (candidate),” Logan said. “So I guess Democrat is better than Green.” Logan’s reluctance to cross the aisle isn’t uncommon in the increasingly polarized political sphere surrounding the country. The divisive attitudes in American politics have been on display throughout 2020 in the form of presidential debates and political sign theft and vandalism, something Logan has experienced himself on Northwest’s campus. The Trump sticker attached to his bumper and the campaign signs taped to his car’s side doors are routinely ripped off, Logan said. Last year, someone stabbed his front tire on the driver’s side. Still, as both party lines seem to be moving further away from the center, Logan hopes that course changes. The moment shared between him and Owens in Valk served as a microcosm for what Logan hopes both the country and campus could be: a place where political differences are celebrated and where political rivals can maintain a civil discourse. That’s the America Logan hopes his generation leaves behind. It will not be the one it inherits. “It’s more divided now than it has been in a long time,” Logan said. Logan is leading a Republican



Logan, the president of the Northwest College Republicans, presides over a College meeting Oct. 19 in Northwest’s Valk Center. Logan, a political science major, has been the president of the organization for four semesters.

“People our age who are conservatives don’t really want to talk about it, so then it makes us look like a smaller minority than we are. Everything in pop culture and the media is kind of making us look like the bad guys.”
-JASPER LOGAN

group of students on what he described as an open-minded campus. He thinks there are more liberal students at Northwest than there are conservatives, but the gap isn’t as wide as it is at schools like the University of Missouri, where right-winged friends of his seem to face some kind of protest every time they gather for a meeting, he said. But Logan is still among a minority in his age group and education demographic. A Pew Research Center examination of the 2016 election found that 58% of respondents in the 18-29 age range

reported voting for Hilary Clinton, while only 28% said they cast their vote for Trump. The splits were similar among college-educated voters, 57% of whom voted for Clinton. It isn’t exactly clear how Logan wound up believing in the ideals he believes in and voting for the candidates he votes for. As he sat in a red armchair in the basement of Valk, Logan wore a blue bandana as a face covering that often dipped below his nose as he spoke. The covering was tied around his gelled-back hair that tends to curl into a sort-of afro when he leaves it un-

kempt. He sported a red College Republicans T-shirt underneath a button-up flannel, itself buried beneath a heavy, black jacket that matched Logan’s unbranded shoes: heavy and black. He never stopped to fiddle with the watch he purchased via eBay that was draped around his left wrist as he recalled the events that might have led him to the Republican Party in a low voice and deliberate cadence. FULL STORY ONLINE: NWMISSOURINEWS.COM

Soccer plans to honor seniors with scrimmage

TRISTAN LYNCH
Missourian Reporter | @NWMSports

The Northwest women’s soccer team is partaking in an intrasquad scrimmage to show support for breast cancer awareness while also recognizing the graduating seniors Oct. 31 at Bearcat Pitch.

This will be the first opportunity for the women’s soccer team to get out on the newly-installed AstroTurf field and get a game-like experience after the season was suspended until the spring due to COVID-19.

Coach Marc Gordon is excited to give the women a chance to play in a competitive, game-like atmosphere this fall.

“It’s a great opportunity, since our season was canceled, to give a competitive opportunity to all of our players this fall,” Gordon said. “We have been training a lot, so it’s an opportunity to get the uniforms out and put them on and play.”

The scrimmage will be run as close to an actual game as possible. It will feature the team suiting up in its home and away pink-out gear and playing for two, 45-min-

ute halves, but it will not be having any officials as the officiating will be done by the coaches.

Senior midfielder Manuela Gonzalez is hoping the scrimmage will feel like a real game.

“We want it to feel as much as a real game as we can,” Gonzalez said. “We are all very competitive against each other, so I think it will still be a good matchup.”

Junior goalkeeper Alexis Serna Castillo is also eager and glad to be participating in more of a game-like scrimmage, as the team scrimmages at the end of most practices.

“This will be more fun too, because it will be more game-like,” Castillo said. “We are going to be playing 45-minute halves instead of 20 or 30-minute halves that we usually do.”

Along with the scrimmage, the team will fundraise for Breast Cancer Awareness as a replacement for not being able to have any official pink-out game during a season.

“We felt like with the Breast Cancer Awareness month of October, it’s something we traditionally do is a pink-out game,” Gordon



GABI BROOKS | FILE

Northwest soccer players honored friends and family members affected by cancer Oct. 20, 2019, during halftime at the Bearcat Soccer Pitch against Northeastern State. This year, the team will compete in an instasquad scrimmage Oct. 31 at Bearcat Pitch to show support for breast cancer awareness and honor graduating seniors.

said. “So, we will wear our home and away pink-out kits.”

The scrimmage will not only be used to support breast cancer awareness but will also be used to recognize a few seniors that will graduate this winter.

Senior midfielder Bri Wawior-ka, who plans to play in the spring, is glad that the seniors who plan on graduating this winter get somewhat of a game-like situation to finish on.

“Regardless of COVID and everything that is going on, it’s good

to get the seniors in a game-like situation that don’t get to continue on in the spring,” Wawior-ka said. “And we still get to honor the breast cancer awareness fundraiser.”

Although her final match will just be an intrasquad scrimmage, Gonzalez is still trying to process that she will be playing her final collegiate game.

“It’s still kind of surreal,” Gonzalez said. “It will be nice to get some kind of closure, being it is my last game, but obviously it’s not the

UP NEXT

Intrasquad Scrimmage
1 p.m. Oct. 31
Bearcat Pitch

same as getting a real season and getting to play against other teams. But I guess it’s bittersweet.”

Over the course of the match, they will be taking online donations for Breast Cancer Awareness and will also be broadcasting the match-up for free on The MIAA Network.



RACHEL ADAMSON | NW MISSOURIAN

Maryville volleyball is set to take on Savannah for the Class 3 District 16 championship Oct. 29 in the Cameron, Missouri.

VOLLEYBALL CONTINUED FROM A10

The ’Hounds built off their offense led by Sundell and only allowed for Cameron to win one set. Maryville was able to seal its first victory of the postseason in the fourth set.

“Having the bye is nice because we are able to do things we may not have during the regular season,” Mizera said. “We did not scout much at all, so this is a good learning opportunity for the girls to be able to scout teams.”

The Spoofhounds feel this year’s team is one that could bring back a championship to Maryville. The whole team has been around each other since their youth. The players learned from each other, but they feel that Mizera has brought a strong culture to the program.

“She trusts in our team more than we do ourselves, and she sees all the potential we have for the postseason,” Stolte said. “She has put pressure on us by matching us up against some Class 5 and Class 4 schools, but that’s because she trusted our abilities and we always seemed to do our job right against

43-10-1

Coach Mizera’s record since taking the helm at Maryville.

those tough teams.”

The Spoofhounds are set to face Savannah Oct. 29 in the Class 3 District 16 Championship in Cameron, Missouri.

FOOTBALL CONTINUED FROM A10

The last time Maryville won the Class 3 District 8 tournament was in 2018 before dropping down to Class 2 before the start of last season. However, this team has a lot of qualities like the 2017 squad, which also lost a couple of games in the regular season but caught stride late in the season to eventually win the state championship.

“Coach Webb was talking about that team in the huddle after the

(Lafayette) game and said that team reminds him of us,” Wilmes said. “We just need to keep working and pushing, and that’s how we could be too.”

The road to a state championship begins with Northeast. The energy surrounding the team is a confident one.

“We’re focused on ourselves and continue to make ourselves better throughout this time of year,” Webb said. “You have to lay it all out every Friday night, and then you get an opportunity to lay it all out on Saturdays.”

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Nodaway County VOTE November 3rd



Maryville boys cross country prepares to go to the West Platte Invitational the morning of Oct. 31 at Platte Ridge Park. Freshman Connor Blackford (front far left), seniors Jake Walker, Garrett Dumke and junior Jag Galapin (far right), are all planning to attend districts.

MHS XC hopes to carry hot streak into postseason

CORBIN SMITH
Sports Reporter | @curly_corbs

Maryville cross country aims to keep its hot streak from cooling down amid a recent plunge in temperatures. The Spoofhounds have won their last three meets, including a dominant performance in the MEC XC Championships. Maryville coach Rodney Bade is hoping to have similar results in the MSHSAA Class 3 District 8 meet Oct. 31 in Platte City, Missouri.

Maryville runners occupied the top four places with senior Garrett Dumke winning his third consecutive individual MEC title. He was quickly followed by juniors Jag Galapin and Cale Sterling and standout freshman Connor Blackford, securing second through fourth, respectively.



UP NEXT

MHS @ District Tournament
Oct. 31
Platte City, Missouri

“I’d say finishing four in the top 4 was the most exciting thing,” Bade said. “Just looking at the runners over the years, we knew this year as long as we have five healthy, we can walk away with it. Three championships in a row feels good, but the four in the top 4 feels really good.”

Bade said it was nice to have his freshman step up and exceed the rank he entered with, and he wants to build on the team’s streak in the future.

FULL STORY ONLINE:
NWMISSOURINEWS.COM

Rugby women get own chance to play

JON WALKER
Sports Editor | @ByJonWalker

Prior to this year, Northwest rugby was searching for a way to become affiliated with the University. After becoming an affiliate of Northwest, the program was hoping to expand participation numbers. For years, there have been streaky off-and-on skids on rugby taking place in Nodaway County, included in that is the Nodaway



County Rugby Team. Now, for the first time, there’s officially a women’s team. “Last year when we started, and kinda founded the women’s team, there were only three of us that played, which is not even enough to make a team,” Northwest senior Meghan McMurray said. “Coming into this year, we were really looking forward to hopefully getting enough to create a women’s sevens team.” With that goal in mind, Mc-

Murray said she, along with Northwest senior and captain Koffi Lewis, increased their efforts in terms of recruiting women to the program. The number aforementioned by McMurray has doubled, and then some.

“We have a consistent eight, which is enough to make a team. That’s pretty significant because I’m the only girl that returned this year because the other two transferred,” McMurray said. “So, the fact we recruited so many new women — they’re all freshmen as well — that’s exciting to look forward to that we’ll hopefully be able to retain them throughout their four years.”

The women had their first friendly Oct. 17 against the Iowa State women’s rugby team. The Northwest team wasn’t able to bring a full squad to play sevens, but the Iowa State women’s team had some extras to have a make-shift game.

Usually, the women play in the men’s matches. The matchup with Iowa State was the first time the women had their own competition that wasn’t affiliated with the Northwest men’s team.

“It was great to let them actually, like, it’s definitely different just practicing, especially with us guys versus actually being out there with other girls and just actually playing a game,” Lewis said. “It was super dope to see them play. I think they actually liked it, too. I was talking to them after, and they said they had a lot of fun.”

The foundation of the women’s team is something that’s been in the works since McMurray’s arrival at Northwest. She’s spearheaded the operations towards the women having their own program.

Despite some latency, McMurray said, the men are some of the biggest supporters of the women.



ANDREW WEGLEY | NW MISSOURIAN

Northwest women’s rugby player Kelly Baldon outruns Iowa State’s defense to score in the team’s first friendly matchup Oct. 17. Iowa State leant several players to Northwest’s roster so the two teams would have enough players to compete.

“I think some people may get the wrong idea when I’m like, ‘(The men) are so excited to have new women on the team,’ but it really isn’t like that,” McMurray said. “I think a lot of them were really hesitant to have women on the team last year, but when they realized how much more fun and exciting it is — there’s a lot more dynamic, not as much testosterone, which is great.”

Lewis said he’s happy for the women that they get to have their own competition separate from the men’s team. It’s something that he’s helped McMurray with, and he helped teach the newcomers the intricacies of the sport.

“It’s more exciting to see how

UP NEXT

NW @ TBD
Nov. 7
Ames, Iowa

quickly they’ve picked up on the sport,” McMurray said of the women new to the program. “Not to be dramatic, but they’re all naturals, so that also just adds to the excitement that we could be looking at having friendlies and serious games and being serious contenders in the women’s realm soon to come.”

FULL STORY ONLINE:
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Northwest men's basketball senior forward Ryan Hawkins (33) and junior guard Trevor Hudgins (12) were two of the 14 finalists for the 2019-20 Bevo Francis Award. Instead of either of the Bearcats, the award was given to NAIA school Indiana Wesleyan's Kyle Mangas.

JON WALKER | NW MISSOURIAN

Pair of Bearcats were robbed of national awards

JON WALKER
Sports Editor | @ByJonWalker

Last season, Northwest men's basketball was robbed. Specifically, then-junior forward Ryan Hawkins and then-sophomore guard Trevor Hudgins.



The Bearcats were one day away from hosting the Division II Central Region Tournament in Bearcat Arena before the sports world was halted due to COVID-19. Northwest coach Ben McCollum should've had his second national championship in three years.

We'll never really know what the postseason had in store for McCollum and company, but it's nice to imagine.

However, it's blatant that Hudgins and Hawkins were robbed of both the Bevo Francis Award and the NABC Division II Player of the Year.

The former is given to the best small college basketball player in the United States. The latter is decided by the National Association of Basketball Coaches, which uses a committee to decide post-season awards.

Let's take a look at both of the players who ended up winning those awards, respectively.

The winner of the Bevo Francis Award was NAIA school Indiana Wesleyan's then-junior guard Kyle Mangas. Now, I will say that at least the pair of aforementioned Bearcats were included in the 14 finalists for the award, so the Bevo Francis committee wasn't all that ignorant.

In 2019-20, Mangas averages 26.9 points, 6.4 rebounds and 4.2 assists per contest while shooting 55% from the field and 38% from deep. The guard's efforts were good enough to lead Wesleyan to a 29-4 record.

The winner of the NABC Division II Player of the Year award was Florida Southern's then-senior guard Brett Hanson. Last season, Hanson averaged 22.4 points, 6.9 rebounds and 4.8 assists per game. Hanson led the Mocs to a 29-2 record, including a 118-109 win over Nova Southeastern in the Sunshine State Conference Tournament championship game.

Hawkins' 2019-20 season included 22.7 points and 7.4 rebounds per contest while shooting 56% from the field and 45% from deep.

FULL STORY ONLINE:
NWMISSOURINEWS.COM



Maryville High School sophomore Truett Haer kicks the ball away during their Varsity soccer game against St. Pius X High School on Oct. 26. The Spoofhounds were down 0-2 by halftime.

ADDALYNN BRADBURY | NW MISSOURIAN

MHS soccer readies for postseason run, Cameron

DALTON TRUSSEL
Missourian Reporter | @NWMSports

As Maryville boys soccer prepares for the MSHSAA Class 1 District 8 Tournament Oct. 31-Nov. 2 at Bearcat Pitch, the Spoofhounds are doing anything and everything to put themselves in position to keep their season alive.



No. 1-seeded Maryville (4-4) will start its postseason quest against the No. 4 seed, Cameron.

"We have to focus on passing in practice and better first touches," Maryville coach Chase Tolson said. We are also working on positioning and making sure we are in the right spot when the ball is moving around the field."

With less than a week until districts, the team is focused on making sure everyone is healthy and prepared for the game. The Spoofhounds are making sure that no one missed a step after having to quar-

antine the past couple of weeks.

"The main goal is making sure we are in shape coming out of quarantine and shaking off the rust from the quarantine," Tolson said, "Other than that, we are still focusing on positioning and what type of movement we need to make when we are attacking to set ourselves up for the best possible chances."

With the district game against the Dragons on Halloween, the Spoofhounds are taking a little bit of a different approach to how they are running practices.

The team is focused on keeping the energy high but is still looking for ways to make sure everyone remains healthy.

"How we run practice depends on the day. This weekend was high intensity, going 100% all practice, shaking off the dust, and today was lighter after the game last night to make sure the players are recovering well," Tolson said. "Do-

UP NEXT

MHS vs. Cameron
1 p.m. Oct. 31
Bearcat Pitch

ing both allows us to make sure we are rested but also ensures that we are ready to go and hit the ground running when the clock starts this weekend."

In preparation for the game against Cameron, junior midfielder Spencer Willnerd is set on getting the team in the right frame of mind. Willnerd said the team needs to be prepared for the games, and he is taking it into his own hands to make it happen.

"I am focused on getting everyone focused on the Cameron game," Willnerd said.

FULL STORY ONLINE:
NWMISSOURINEWS.COM

Cross country prepares for pseudo-MIAA meet

TANNER SMITH
Sports Reporter | @T_smit02

Both the men and women of Northwest cross country will lace up their shoes for a pseudo-conference meet Oct. 31 in Wichita, Kansas.



Both teams were preparing, respectively, for the track and field seasons in the spring after the MIAA suspended fall sports and the NCAA canceled all fall sports. The MIAA announced Oct. 1 that fall sports could compete, which was left up to the discretion of each member institution.

The schools in the MIAA took full advantage of this, setting up a meet involving multiple MIAA schools. The schools in the MIAA that decided to not take part are Washburn, Lincoln, Emporia State and Central Oklahoma.

The men's team looked to repeat efforts from last season before the cancellation and push for better results this season. The team feels this is a strong opportunity to show what it's worked towards since last fall.

"We had goals to be on top this season," Northwest coach Nick Gibson said. "We ended up second in the conference and fifth in the country last year, and the men felt they had something to prove."

Most of the team from last year returned to Northwest this season, with a few new additions to the roster. Two

key runners that returned were captains Tucker Dahle and Jake Norris.

Cross country is considered a low-contact sport by the NCAA, making the meet feasible to conduct for all schools participating. With that, the Bearcats have been able to train throughout summer and this fall, despite having to take two weeks off because of positive tests.

"I think we have a great chance to come out on top," Dahle said. "There's solid competition from Nebraska-Kearney and Missouri Southern, but we're well-prepared for this weekend."

The women's team comes in with a new look this year compared to last. The team graduated most of its runners despite returning standout runner Keely Danielson. With new legs on the team, the Bearcats hope to put on a strong showing this weekend.

"The team looks drastically different, but I am confident in their work ethic that they have shown that they can place in the top five," Gibson said.

Northwest is set to compete against some of the top runners in Division II. The Bearcats have seen and competed against them before, and feel this gives them an advantage this weekend, knowing what they need to do to succeed.

"I think we have a lot of the top-tier talent and the desire to win has stayed with us since last year's conference meet when we finished second," Dahle said. "We are just ready

UP NEXT

NW @ Newman
Oct. 31
Wichita, Kansas

“We are just ready to compete and put it all out there.”
-TUCKER DAHLE

to compete and put it all out there.”

The Bearcats won't be competing for nothing, though. The coaches in the conference have set up awards for the runners at this meet, but more is at stake.

The teams that finish in the top 40% will move on to a nationals meet against other Division II schools in the country. The top four men's teams and the top five women's teams will move on to this meet. The meet will be held Nov. 14 in Lubbock, Texas.

"We are backing off a load of training we've had throughout the semester to help our legs be fresh," Dahle said. "We want to feel good going into this race, and I am confident we will be competing in Lubbock in November."

The Crown

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WATCH THE THRONE

'Hounds to take on MEC rivals for chance at District crown



Maryville High School senior Serena Sundell spikes the ball over the net practicing for the team's game Oct. 27 in Cameron, Missouri. The Spoofhounds beat the Dragons 3-1.

TANNER SMITH
Sports Reporter | @T_smit02

Maryville volleyball used the rest from its first-round bye in the Class 3 District 16 Tournament to beat Cameron 3-1 Oct. 27 in Cameron, Missouri.

The Spoofhounds came into the week with high hopes of growing in every aspect of the game. The team has focused on building around its seniors and expertise of second-year coach Miranda Mizera.

Mizera has posted a 43-10-1 record since taking the helm at Maryville. She is a graduate of Northwest, and the girls on the team feed off the expertise she's brought to the program.

"Coach Mizera has taught us a lot as a team and really gets to focus on our side of the net and support one another," senior Macy Loe said, a setter for the Spoofhounds.



Maryville finished the regular season as back-to-back MEC champions, including an unblemished eight-game schedule in the conference. Some key players to look out

(301). Loe is the main player at the net setting up these shots for Sundell, with Stolte in the back court leading the defensive efforts.

UP NEXT

MHS vs Savannah
6 p.m. Oct. 29
Cameron, Missouri

"We had an advantage in receiving the first seed. We have played and beat all the teams in our district before, so hopefully we're able to run with the same momentum we have this whole season."

-KLARYSA STOLTE

for in the postseason are seniors outside hitter Serena Sundell, Loe and libero Klarysa Stolte.

All three seniors have had key roles in the team's success, with Sundell leading the team in kills

The 'Hounds took advantage of previously facing Cameron, being able to know what to expect from the Dragons.

"We had an advantage in receiving the first seed," Stolte said.

"We have played and beat all the teams in our district before, so hopefully we're able to run with the same momentum we have this whole season."

SEE VOLLEYBALL | A7

Football returns to 'Hound Pound

CALVIN SILVERS
Sports Reporter | @CalvinSilvers

Maryville football traveled to St. Joseph, Missouri, Oct. 23 looking to secure 11 straight wins against Lafayette.

The Spoofhounds (6-3, 4-1 MEC) stole the show in the second half against the Fighting Irish (3-5, 2-3 MEC), winning 26-14.

The win propelled the 'Hounds to the No. 2-seed in Class 3 District 8. Maryville was 3.06 district points from having the No. 1 seed, but Richmond (7-1) will be the team to beat in the postseason.

"You worry about winning one game at a time. It's win or go home; it's playoff football. It's exciting times," Maryville coach Matt Webb said. "That's why you play this. We've played some very good opponents and played in a very tough MEC conference. We're excited about the postseason."

Spoofhounds' junior defensive back Kade Wilmes, who scored the game-sealing touchdown against Lafayette, knew the win was crucial.

"That win means a lot to us," Wilmes said. "That was a really important game for us so that we can move forward in the playoffs."

With the No. 2 seed comes home-field advantage for Maryville. For the first time since Sept. 11, and for the third time this year, fans will be able to see the Spoofhounds play at the 'Hound Pound.

"We fought and earned the right to play a couple of home games here," Webb said. "We're looking forward to playing at home. We've only lost one game at the 'Hound Pound in a long time. We're excited to play at home."

The last loss dealt to the Spoofhounds at home was Nov. 15, 2019, against the Lathrop Mules for the Class 2 District 8 championship. The loss ended a 67-home game win streak.

The opponent trying to replicate



Senior running back Kade Wilmes breaks a tackle in Maryville football's 42-40 comeback win over Harrisonville Sept. 4 at the 'Hound Pound. The Spoofhounds are set to pay Northeast (Kansas City) Oct. 30 at the 'Hound Pound.

No. 2
Maryville spoofhounds are the No. 2-seed in Class 3 District 8

Lathrop will be Northeast (Kansas City) Oct. 30. The Vikings are the No. 7 seed in the district and sit at 0-7. Besides their 16-point loss to Southeast Oct. 24, the Vikings have lost every game by at least

36 points.

In seven games, Northeast has been outscored 328-38.

Webb does not want his team to overlook any opponent when it comes to district play, as a loss would send the Spoofhounds off the field until next season.

"What we focus on this time of the year, as you enter district play and pool play, is you focus on the idea of win or go home," Webb said. "We're a higher seed, and one of the things we're focusing on this week is making sure that anytime you're in a bracket that the higher seed should

prevail, and we need to go out and play like a higher seed should."

The Spoofhounds carry a three-game win streak into the postseason, a streak that began Oct. 9 with a 49-10 win over Lincoln College Prep. Maryville has outscored opponents 116-41 in that span.

The last time the 'Hounds faced Northeast was Oct. 23, 2015, when Maryville won 49-6. They also faced the Vikings in 2012, when Maryville came out on top once again, winning 76-0.

"We're wanting to win games. We put ourselves in the best sit-

UP NEXT

MHS vs Northeast
7 p.m. Oct. 30
'Hound Pound

uation in the district tournament, which is what we've done. We'll be focused and ready to play," Webb said. "I'm impressed with the way we're playing as a team. I think we're playing our best football here towards the end of the season."

SEE FOOTBALL | A7